

LESSON 16

In pacem leones, in proelio cervi.
Be lions in peace; be deer in battle.

Key Words		
feline	piscine	simian
leonine	porcine	ursine
lionize	serpentine	zoology

FELIS <L. "cat"

1. **feline** (fē'lin)

n. A member of the family of cats, lions, tigers, and jaguars.

One of the most beautiful **felines** is the Siberian tiger.

adj. Belonging to the cat family; having characteristics of a cat, such as gracefulness and independence.

Characters in the Broadway musical *Cats* display a wide range of **feline** qualities.

felinity, *n.*



Familiar Words

Leo
leopard
lion
lioness
lionhearted

LEO, LEONIS <L. "lion"

LEON <G. "lion"

2. **leonine** (lē'ə nīn)

adj. Pertaining to a lion; having characteristics of a lion, such as fierceness and majesty.

The shaggy-haired speaker roared at the interruption with **leonine** ferocity.

3. **lionize** (lī'ə nīz)

tr. v. To regard or treat a person as a celebrity.

Audiences **lionized** English author Anthony Trollope when he came to America to read from his novels.

lionism, *n.*; **lionization**, *n.*; **lionship**, *n.*



Familiar Word
Pisces

Challenge Word
piscatorial

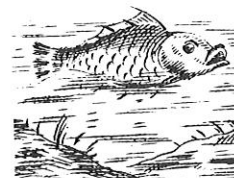
PISCIS <L. "fish"

4. **piscine** (pī sēn', pīs'in)
adj. Typical of fish.

Piscine eyes look only to the sides, not straight ahead.

piscinity, *n.*

NOTA BENE: Of the twelve signs of the zodiac, seven are animals. Those not mentioned in these lessons are *Aries*, "ram"; *Scorpio*, "scorpion"; *Cancer*, "crab"; and *Taurus*, "bull." (*Capricorn* means "goat's horn.")



Familiar Words
porcupine
pork

Challenge Words
pork barrel
porker
porky

PORCUS <L. "swine," "pig," "hog"

5. **porcine** (pôr'sīn)
adj. Pertaining to or resembling a pig.

Miss Piggy the Muppet is proud of her **porcine** features.

porcinity, *n.*



SERPENS, SERPENTIS <L. "serpent," "snake"

6. **serpentine** (sûr'pən tēn')
adj. 1. Resembling a serpent in form or movement: sinuous; winding.

The Colorado River takes a **serpentine** course from Colorado to Mexico.

2. Having qualities of a serpent: subtle, sly, sometimes even evil.

Convinced by the con artists' **serpentine** persuasion, the gullible couple signed over their life's savings.

SIMIA <L. "monkey," "ape"

7. **simian** (sīm'ē ən)
adj. Pertaining to or resembling an ape or monkey.

Biologists have discovered that human beings possess **simian** social instincts such as sharing of food.

n. An ape or monkey.

The most teachable **simian**, a chimpanzee, can learn human sign language.

simianity, *n.*



Challenge Words

Ursa Major
Ursa Minor

URSA <L. "bear"**8. ursine** (ûr'sîn)

adj. Pertaining to or characteristic of a bear.

The **ursine** habit of hibernation allows the animal to sleep throughout the winter in a cave or hollow log.

ursinity, *n.*

**Familiar Words**

zodiac
zoo

ZOION (plural **ZOA**) <G. "living being," "animal"**9. zoology** (zō ōl'ə jē) [*logy* = *logos* <G. "word," "speech"]

n. The science dealing with animals. (Also used as an adjective.)

Students of **zoology** learn about animal groups and the varying structures of animal forms.

zoologic, *adj.*; **zoological**, *adj.*; **zoologically**, *adv.*; **zoologist**, *n.*

NOTA BENE: The equivalent Latin form for "living being," "animal" is *animal*, *animalis*.

Challenge Words

protozoan
zoophyte
zooplankton

EXERCISE 16A

Circle the letter of the best **SYNONYM** (the word or phrase most nearly the same as the word in bold-faced type).

1. **simian** features a. ape-like b. humane c. amusing d. familiar e. wrinkled
2. **feline** leaps a. awkward b. slow c. risky d. graceful e. capricious
3. a **zoologist** a. veterinarian b. person who studies animal life c. caretaker of a zoo d. person who evaluates zoos e. person who collects animals
4. having a **leonine** manner a. kittenish b. gentle c. clumsy d. youthful e. fierce

Circle the letter of the best **ANTONYM** (the word or phrase most nearly opposite the word in bold-faced type).

5. to **lionize** a famous actor a. paw b. annoy c. idolize d. despise e. misunderstand
6. an unmistakably **ursine** pace a. light-footed b. bear-like c. clumsy d. slow e. heavy
7. a(n) **serpentine** path a. snake-infested b. frightening c. straight d. winding e. itinerant

EXERCISE 16B

Circle the letter of the sentence in which the word in bold-faced type is used incorrectly.

1. a. The wild boar is a **porcine** cousin of the domestic pig.
b. The chef's specialty is a **porcine** with an apple in its mouth.
c. **Porcine** contours may result when appetites become too hearty.
d. George Orwell's **porcine** characters in *Animal Farm* resent Farmer Jones's power but overthrow it with a corrupt power of their own.
2. a. **Piscine** and *fishy* can rarely be used as synonyms because *fishy* has so many more variations of meaning, like "suspicious" and "devious."
b. A **piscine** partnership exists between the yellow clownfish and the sea anemone, which grants immunity from its poisonous tentacles to few other fish.
c. In 1926 Gertrude Ederly became the first woman to swim the English Channel, a notable **piscine** accomplishment.
d. **Piscine** habits and habitats are subjects included in *The Compleat Angler* by Izaak Walton, a noted sixteenth-century fishing expert.
3. a. The **serpentine** design on the chairback represented a Chinese dragon.
b. Emily Dickinson describes a chilling **serpentine** encounter with "a narrow fellow in the grass."
c. Drivers in the Alps need courage and good brakes to negotiate the frequent **serpentine** turns.
d. The timid **serpentine** darted into its hole.
4. a. The **ursine** seal resembles a bear in the color and shagginess of its fur.
b. Winnie the Pooh shares with his wild **ursine** counterparts a love of honey.
c. With an **ursine** waddle the opossum crossed the grass.
d. The child had a dainty **ursine** appetite.
5. a. Some Americans tend to **lionize** British royalty.
b. Too rich a diet **lionized** our cat.
c. Sixties' groups such as the Beatles and the Supremes were **lionized** wherever they performed.
d. Authors may enjoy being **lionized** but will still complain about the interruption of their work.
6. a. Both Jane Goodall and Dian Fossey have contributed to our understanding of **simian** behavior in their studies of chimpanzees and gorillas.
b. **Simians** are like human beings in having an opposable thumb.
c. The creature's head was hidden in its **simian** coils.
d. Charles Darwin's theories showing human and **simian** similarities horrified many people in the nineteenth century because of conflict with religious beliefs.

EXERCISE 16C

Fill in each blank with the most appropriate word from Lesson 16. Use a word or any of its forms only once.

1. The dancer leaped with _____ coolness and grace.
2. _____ forms flickering in a coral reef thrill scuba divers.
3. In the study of _____ you will compare the structure and habits of birds, fish, and mammals.

REVIEW EXERCISES FOR LESSONS 15 AND 16**1**

Matching: Apply what you have learned in these lessons about animals to the following new words, which appear in unabridged dictionaries. In the space at the left, write the letter of the phrase that defines the word in italics.

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|------------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. <i>capric acid</i> | A. a beekeeper |
| _____ 2. <i>piscivorous</i> | B. a place where serpents are kept |
| _____ 3. <i>felicide</i> | C. fish-eating |
| _____ 4. <i>apiarist</i> | D. the slaughter of birds |
| _____ 5. <i>lionesque</i> | E. belonging to the family of oxen |
| _____ 6. <i>serpentarium</i> | F. the constellation, Great Bear |
| _____ 7. <i>bovoid</i> | G. smelling like a goat |
| _____ 8. <i>canicular</i> | H. the act of killing a cat |
| _____ 9. <i>Ursa Major</i> | I. like a lion |
| _____ 10. <i>avicide</i> | J. referring to dog days (the period of hot weather in summer when the dog stars are visible in the night sky) |